

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05500 221119Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /096 W
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R 221010Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5500
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ANKARA 5500

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TU
SUBJECT: TURK-IS PRESIDENT RENEWS CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE IF
GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED

REF: ANKARA 5303 (DTG 150630Z JUL 77) (NOTAL)

1. AS THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE JULY 21,
TURK-IS LABOR CONFEDERATION PRESIDENT HALIL TUNC RENEWED
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HIS CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE IF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT
WINS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. HE SAID HE WOULD CALL AN
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HIS EXECUTIVE BOARD TO FIX THE
DATE OF THE STRIKE.

2. IN HIS STATEMENT, TUNC CLAIMED THAT TURKISH LABORERS
HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO STRIKE IN ORDER TO SECURE

DEMOCRACY AND THE PRINCIPLES OF ATATURK. HE REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT A GENERAL STRIKE WOULD BEST REPRESENT THE DESIRE OF TURKISH LABORERS AND THE TURKISH PEOPLE TO PROTECT THEIR HARD-WON CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS.

3. PRIMIN DEMIREL, ASKED BY JOURNALISTS ABOUT TUNC'S STATEMENT, SAID "GENERAL STRIKES ARE ILLEGAL IN TURKEY. WHOEVER STRIKES BREAKS THE LAW AND IT IS CLEAR WHAT HAPPENS TO LAW-BREAKERS. IT IS NOTHING POLITICAL."

4. TWENTY AFFILIATES OF TURK-IS, LED BY THE PRO-REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNIONS, HAD EARLIER AFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR TUNC'S INITIAL CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE (REFTTEL). TECHNICALLY, THIS SUPPORT SHOULD GIVE TUNC A MAJORITY OF ONE IN THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF TURK-IS. HOWEVER, SEVERAL IMPORTANT UNIONS HAVE REMAINED SILENT (E.G., THE FOOD AND DRINK WORKERS, THE LARGEST UNION IN THE COUNTRY) OR HAVE VOICED OPPOSITION (E.G., METAL WORKERS, ENERGY WORKERS AND THE TEXTILE WORKERS). A GROUP OF 13 BOARD MEMBERS HAS CHARGED TUNC WITH USING THE CONFEDERATION TO SERVE HIS OWN POLITICAL AMBITIONS AND HAS THREATENED DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST HIM IF HE DOES NOT CHANGE HIS STANCE.

5. ALTHOUGH TUNC HAS PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION, THE MILITARY PROSECUTOR HAS INITIATED AN UNCLASSIFIED

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INVESTIGATION OF TUNC'S JULY 12 STATEMENT AND PRESS INTERVIEW TO ASCERTAIN IF CHARGES SHOULD BE BROUGHT AGAINST HIM UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE MILITARY PENAL CODE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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